



**DREAM
ARTS**



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

CHARITY REGISTRATION 1162525

*'DreamArts has helped me grow, help me accept who I am,
what I like to do and my opinions as a person.'*

Lana aged 14

www.dreamarts.org.uk

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Experiment members exploring puppetry with Les Enfants Terribles.



THE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Reflecting on DreamArts between April 2019 and March 2020 it's clear our growth and achievement enabled us to successfully adapt delivery and help meet young people's needs during the unprecedented pandemic that followed.

In 2019/20 we doubled our Express Plus arts therapy service to reach those struggling with their mental health, giving a safe space for young people and in some cases their parent/carer to address issues including domestic violence, sexual abuse, anxiety and suicide ideation.

Young people were empowered to share their experiences creatively and have their voices heard. For example, Carers Express participants planned and led *Ask Me Don't Tell Me*, an event to celebrate and inform professionals and policy makers what it's like to be a young carer and express what they feel could be done to support them. From this, DreamArts is now working with Westminster Early Help Service to develop a joint offer of support for young carers.

Generating incredible creative work is only part of young people's experiences at DreamArts. An even greater cause for celebration was evidenced at our Experiment weekend companies where Outcome Stars saw 100% of participants state they had improved their ability to share their ideas and learn new skills, raising their self-esteem which transfers to the home, school and future workplace. Wellbeing improved as 100% stated they got to explore and their thoughts and feelings, and social isolation reduced as 88% made new friends and creatively problem-solved as a team.

There have been challenges. Experiment participants were poised to present their original musicals just as lockdown kicked in. We managed to hold sessions the weekend before to prepare participants for postponement and offer support which continued throughout the pandemic. Thankfully they were able to share their achievements with their families in September at a special Covid-secure sharing. Meanwhile our Performance Company collaborated for a second year with award-winning Les Enfants Terribles creating an immersive piece prophetically entitled *Lockdown*. Although the March performance had to be postponed a digital re-working is scheduled for 2021.

We're proud that the quality of DreamArts has been recognised by financial growth of 13% including a major 3-year award from John Lyon's Charity, whilst commissions from City Council include City Lions, work with primary pupils at risk of exclusion, and those with special educational needs. Plus BBC Children in Need chose 8 members to star in their appeal show working alongside and upstaging star names from the David Copperfield film, including Armando Iannucci and Paul Whitehouse.

These achievements are credit to our outstanding team of practitioners and volunteers led by our Director Graham Whitlock, a team strengthened by the appointment of Catherine Palmer as Assistant Director and Myfie Mountford as Content Producer to help DreamArts shout about our success. A big thanks also to our dedicated board of Trustees.

Finally, on behalf of DreamArts family past and present, immeasurable thanks to Anne-Marie Reid who stepped down as Programme Director after nearly two decades of literally living the DreamArts mission of transforming young lives through arts and therapy. Anne-Marie has been a fundamental part of every DreamArts success, from launching our first weekend programme to developing the 'DreamArts Way' fusing arts and therapeutic practice. We wish her all the very best as she starts her MA and develops her own therapeutic practice, and we're glad she'll remain a guiding hand as a consultant for our Express Plus arts therapy programme.

POLLY KNEWSTUB, Chair





Members of *Carers Express* at the event they planned and led, *Ask Me Don't Tell Me*

FRIENDS OF DREAMARTS

The following members of the DreamArts Family kindly donated to the charity during 2019-20;

<i>Ovation</i>	Jon Gyngell	Harriet Sutton	Sean Dennis	John Hyatt	Mark Bunyan
	Zaffer Raniwala	Asif Raniwala	Toni Medcalf		
<i>Applause</i>	Johannah Hogg	Ed Lascelles	Anne Reyersbach	Osahon Orchard	
	Naomi Roper	Lana Guascone	Vicki George	Len George	



REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Full Name: DreamArts

Status: Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO) registration number 1162525 (please note that between November 1997 and 31 April 2017 DreamArts operated as a charitable trust, registration number 1070614. From 1 April 2017 assets were transferred from the Charity to the new CIO).

Trustees	<i>Date of appointment</i>	<i>Date of resignation</i>	<i>Serving in financial year ending 2020</i>	<i>Trustees on date of Accounts approval</i>
Ian Dougal (Secretary)	Nov '13		Yes	Yes
Toni Medcalf	Sept '15		Yes	Yes
Jodie Dalmeda	Feb '16		Yes	Yes
Naomi Roper	Feb '16		Yes	Yes
Elsa Madrolle	Nov '16	Nov '19	Yes	No
Asif Raniwala (Treasurer)	Feb '17		Yes	Yes
Polly Knewstub (Chair)	June '17		Yes	Yes
Jeffrey Sampson	April '18	Oct '19	Yes	No
David Mumeni	March '19		Yes	Yes

Primary Office: Unit 122, Great Western Studios, 65 Alfred Rd, London W2 5ES
From Dec 2019; 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH

Principal Officers: Director – Graham Whitlock
Programme Director – Anne-Marie Reid-Cofie

Bankers The Cooperative Bank **Payroll** Willow Pay Ltd, Kingsway Business Park, Hampton TW12 2HD

Fundraiser Sue Crow **Independent Examiner** Albury Associates
The Future Is... Ltd 2nd Floor 1 Hobbs House
Bessborough Road
Harrow HA1 3EX



Carers Express and our Performance Company in a workshop with award-winning author Alex Wheatle



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Company (CIO - registration number 1162525). From April 2017 we began transferring the existing Charity's assets and liabilities to the CIO and the existing Charity will be wound up.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are nominated by serving members of the Board, and are appointed at Trustees Meetings and retire by rotation or are eligible for re-election. Trustees serve for a 3 year term, after which a Trustee is eligible for re-election for a further 2 terms of 3 years and up to a maximum of 3 terms.

Officers: The Board nominate and elect the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Observers: Board of Trustee Meetings are attended by the Chief Executive and Programme Director, with other team members regularly invited to share the work they've been delivering.

Trustees Induction and Training

New Trustees undergo a meeting with the Chair and the Chief Executive to brief them on their legal obligations under charity law; the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association; the financial performance of the charity; and aspects of the charity's work. Where possible a visit to see DreamArts' work in action is arranged. Trustees are encouraged to attend as many DreamArts projects throughout the year as they can.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees can have up to 15 members meeting at least 6 times per year and administer the charity's strategy, finance, audit and compliance. To facilitate effective operations the Chief Executive has delegated authority for operational matters including finance, employment, policies (including safeguarding), and service delivery.

Related Parties

DreamArts is a partner within the **Early Help Partnership**. This is a collaboration between Westminster's statutory young people's services and children's centres and is working alongside charities and voluntary agencies.

We have also been designated a core partner of the **Early Help Targeted Service**, Westminster's statutory service that supports families in need, and as a result we are commissioned to deliver work including supporting primary school pupils at risk of school exclusion.

As an outreach organization DreamArts has an **extensive referral and partnership network** through which we share and contribute to the work of a large number of voluntary and statutory agencies that provide a range of services to children and young people.

Risk Management

The charity has a risk management strategy which comprises;

- an annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and
- implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should these risks materialise.

This work has identified the need to mitigate **financial risk** by the setting of a reserves policy to cover costs in the event of the charity ceasing its activities. **Child protection** issues are central to the charity's work, with all staff and volunteers undergoing safeguarding training in Child Protection, Boundaries and Disclosure, and those leading direct work with young people checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Key staff also receive annual Safeguarding and Welfare training to keep up to date with requirements and best practice.



ABOUT DREAMARTS

CHARITABLE OBJECTS

Our CIO **Memorandum and Articles of Association** state our object is;

'To advance in life and help children and young people in the London Borough of Westminster and other Greater London Boroughs by providing support and creative activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals'.

Mission: To transform young lives fusing arts and therapy.

Objectives: To empower young people to:

- Explore who they are
- Strengthen relationships
- Make positive life choices

Outcomes: Our Theory of Change provides a framework for the difference we want to have on the lives of participants and helps focus our current work and shape our future direction. The six core outcomes our projects aim to achieve are;

- Develop positive relationships with peers and adults
- Explore their views, thoughts and feelings
- Share ideas and skills with others
- Take a creative risk
- Take a creative lead
- Be open to learning new skills



Carers Express participants join thousands of young people with caring responsibilities at the UK Young Carers Festival.

PROGRAMMES

DreamArts achieves its charitable objects by delivering three programmes of work;

EXPRESS

Creative and therapeutic arts projects for those facing particular challenges in their lives, delivered in partnership with other charities, social services, with parents and, most importantly, with young people themselves.

Express Collective enables young people to choose an issue and a creative medium in which to explore solutions. DreamArts delivers a tailor-made project to meet their needs, empowering them to make positive choices. Projects include *Carers Express*.

Family Express enables parents and children to create, share and learn together as equal partners and form stronger relationships.

Express Plus provides individual, parent-child and family arts therapy for those finding it difficult to manage their feelings and behaviours. It is the only free therapy service of its kind in Westminster and enables clients to explore their challenges and strengths and build a greater sense of self-worth.

EXPERIMENT

Weekend Creative Labs enable 7-19 year olds to explore and unleash their talents. Our skilled professionals empower participants to create their own work which leads to better self-exploration - from new musicals to radio plays and short films. Experiment reduces social isolation and builds positive relationships with peers and adults. No other equivalent affordable arts programme exists in Westminster, the heart of UK Theatre land.

EXPAND

Our leadership schemes expand young people's professional skills and horizons, empowering them to lead their peers and run their own projects, becoming creative entrepreneurs and a positive force within their community.



OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS DURING 2019-20

DreamArts projects engaged 380 participants. 78% live in the 5 most severely deprived wards in Westminster, a borough which has the 5th highest level of child poverty in the UK. Two-thirds of participants came from Black Minority Ethnic backgrounds including 25% from Arabic-speaking communities, and 65% were female.

Outcomes

Participants told us they achieved the following outcomes:

- **95% learned new skills**
- **82% said they had developed positive relationships**
- **85% explored their thoughts and feelings**
- **79% shared their ideas**
- **79% showed their skills**
- **70% took a lead**

We undertook a snapshot survey completed by 58 of our Experiment members asking them what they thought about our services:

- **100% said staff made everyone feel welcome and are friendly and approachable**
- **100% said they made new friends**
- **96% said they developed their communication skills and developed their confidence**

The DreamArts Way

DreamArts has an ethos of 'yes you can, so let's do it together'. We invest in our skilled staff who learn to combine arts-based practice with aspects of attachment, systemic and neuroscience theories. This creates rich, secure and understanding relationships that encourage those who have complex needs and emotions to engage and reflect upon themselves. Core to this 'DreamArts Way' is PACE (Playful, Accepting, Curious and

Empathetic), an attachment based relational model that aims to make participants feel safe and encourages trust. We believe we are the only organisation applying PACE within a youth arts setting. In addition our core team completed Trauma Informed Training helping us to understand and respond to young people who have experienced trauma in their lives, further enhancing our wellbeing impact.

"I was able to talk in front of people."

"I have learned to be more kind."

"Doing DreamArts has helped me learn about me".

"I agree with people's ideas more now."

"It helped me express my feelings through camera."

"You get to express your opinion, where most placed you don't get to. You get to feel free and open without anyone judging you."

"I've gained lots of confidence and maturity and made lots of new friends."

"What a lovely, lovely day I've had in space!"

"I've learned to work for a team, to carry on and saying never give up".



EXPRESS

Express engaged with 158 participants.

Express Plus: We increased our capacity to support young people struggling with their mental health by doubling our team to 9 volunteer trainee arts therapists. The service was delivered after school at Family Hubs in Westminster's three most deprived wards, giving a safe space to address a range of issues including domestic violence, sexual abuse, anxiety, coping with special educational needs, self-harm and suicidal thoughts. The consistency of support increased because we secured the commitment of our team for a full year by obtaining funding to pay for their external clinical supervision costs. This meant Express Plus benefited from a wider range of volunteers rather than those who can afford to pay these costs themselves, securing a highly diverse team from ethnicities and backgrounds that reflect the young people we support. As a result our capacity rose from 15 clients to 26 each week providing individual and parent-child sessions for those finding it difficult to manage their emotions and behaviours.

Family Express Children and parents/ carers from 16 families worked side by side to strengthen their relationships. All were Arabic-speaking, came from refugee/ migrant backgrounds and live around Church Street, the ward with the highest levels of child poverty in London. Families explored understanding through visual arts, used storytelling to look at the impact of bottling up emotions, built support networks with each other to reduce isolation and attended *Santa in Love* at the local Cockpit Theatre.

"Making family portraits helps us get a better relationship so you know why you love them."

Child participant

Express Collective worked with young carers, children at risk of school exclusion, residents on a severely deprived estate and those with special educational needs.

Carers Express engaged 22 young carers with 1:1 support for them and their families and regular group sessions that provided opportunities to go places and do things they would never otherwise be able to. This included trips to West End shows like *WICKED* and 3 residentials providing important respite. In July '19 a residential to the National Young Carers' Festival provided a fantastic chance to join, share and celebrate with thousands of young carers from across the UK. And in November 10 participants were empowered to plan and lead *Ask Me Don't Tell Me* to celebrate and inform people what it is like to be a young carer and express what they feel could be done to support them.

Churchill Express delivered an 8-week dance and film project at Churchill Gardens Youth Club with 11 participants living in the 3rd most deprived ward in Westminster. They initially struggled to support each other but using Tik-Tok app-inspired movements and vlogging they began actively praising, respecting and performing to their peers.

"Everyone listened to each other so I got to express my feelings."

Short Breaks was a 12-week commission from Westminster City Council to support 14 young people with special educational needs some of which are profound and multiple through weekly multi-arts multisensory workshops exploring the ways we travel.

"It's the longest I've seen her engage with something."

EXPRESS FOCUS: CREATIVE CAMPAIGNS

Creative Campaigns is an initiative commissioned as part of Westminster's School Inclusion Pilot supporting primary school pupils at risk from school exclusion. Over 12 weeks in two schools a total of 55 pupils became peer-educators, engaging positively with their school and their peers.

At Burdett Coutts Year 4 pupils had been identified by the school Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator as having a range of emotional and behavioural challenges. Some had been temporarily excluded aged 8.

They formed a Media Agency and their team of roving reporters explored issues they felt important including gender equality in sport, climate change and being safe online. They took ownership over creating songs, sketches, films and interviews to share with the school and their families at a special assembly.

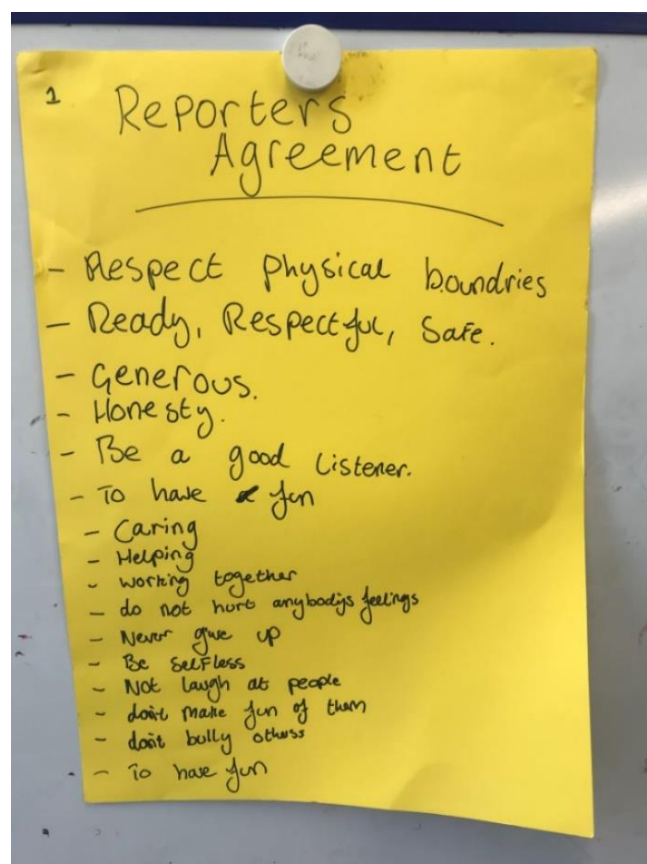
Despite previous tensions and disengagement within the class, over the weeks they made group contracts and worked hard at listening, respecting and supporting each other.

"I love DreamArts more than Christmas."

"I achieved working with people I never normally work with."

"There were a whole group of students struggling and they've come on leaps and bounds. One child was never played with, he cried and missed school, it had an impact on his learning. Now they're used to working with him and just go to sit with him."

Ella Camplin, Assistant Headteacher for inclusion



Case Study

Creative Campaigns also came to St Gabriel's Primary School on the severely deprived Churchill Gardens Estate. The Assistant Headteacher had ended up responsible for the Year 4 class. They had 3 teachers in 8 months who all struggled with their dynamic. The class included pupils who had been given internal exclusions and one at risk of permanent exclusion, whose development is discussed in the following case study;

Over the course of Creative Campaigns, I observed that the group's complex and strained dynamic improved massively. By bringing in lots of creative and inventive approaches I could see that students had developed positive relationships with each other and there was more willingness to work together, listen to ideas and compliment the work of their peers. They were more positive about their school and learning experiences and other staff members noticed a change in them.

I saw particular developments in K who is at risk of permanent exclusion. He has a lot of anger and can flip from 0-10 over things like receiving feedback which can lead to kicking and destroying classroom furniture and equipment.

Since joining DreamArts, I have seen K develop his ability to regulate his emotions and build his relationships with his peers. His love for music and having an opportunity to share these skills with his peers and led to a transformation in how the class view him.

The DreamArts team always notice and acknowledge his contributions and encourage him to celebrate what he has done well. We saw this begin to impact his decisions in the classroom, for example he would ask to move away from individuals that provoked him, he became more accepting if he lost in games and would celebrate the winners. He expresses his thoughts and feelings particularly on his campaign topic of bullying and how this can affect others.

This project has been really impactful in supporting K in his challenges and improved his classroom behaviour and relationships".

Sonia Bell, Deputy Headteacher



EXPERIMENT

Experiment Weekend Company gave 108 7-19 year olds living in some of the UK's most severely deprived areas the chance to express themselves by creating their own work. Our grass-roots outreach efforts engaged a cross section of young people of whom 65% stated they are from families on benefits whilst half come from homes with English is a second language.

On Saturdays in South Westminster and on Sundays in Church Street participants developed teamwork and communication skills, learning from top creative professionals. Between October '19 and March '20 they created their own original work including 4 new musicals and an original immersive theatre piece from our Performance Company of 13-19 year olds. They took responsibility for staging and choreography and leadership roles during warm-up exercises.

We achieved the largest intake of new members for many years. For most this was their first opportunity to devise their own work. Through improvisation, exploring movement and physicality and developing their singing and songwriting they were able to explore their own abilities and how that related to their own personal development. creating characters and thinking about characteristics which in turn allowed them to explore their own thoughts and feelings

Almost every group included climate change and ecology when offering themes and narratives for the shows they were creating; this led to many discussions with the groups about how they individually felt about the world and their futures – again allowing an opportunity for them to explore who they are and their opinions on global issues. Other themes they creatively explored included bullying, friendship, loss, and feelings of isolation.

New Musicals & DreamArts Gala

Experiment participants were poised to present their original musicals just as lockdown kicked in. We managed to hold sessions the weekend before to prepare members for postponement and offer support which continued throughout the pandemic.

Thankfully they were able to share their achievements with their families in September at a special Covid-secure sharing at the Sarah Siddons Theatre. It had been 6 months since they had last worked on their material. We didn't know what they might recall and had anticipated that members would struggle with remembering what they had developed. However, their ownership over their work was evident throughout. We were blown away with how much they recalled of their songs, lyrics, characters, scenes, the choreography and direction they'd be responsible for, all presented with renewed passion and pride.

Working with Les Enfants Terrible (LET)

DreamArts continued our theatre-company-in-residence with the internationally acclaimed Les Enfants Terrible. This included puppetry workshops over the Whitson half term with 20 participants aged 7-16.

One of our members who worked with LET on our 2019 immersive theatre collaboration *Red Ribbons* had the opportunity to shadow a professional LET director at a project at Kensington Palace.

For a second year our Performance Company worked with LET to creating an immersive piece prophetically entitled *Lockdown*. Although the March performance had to be postponed a digital re-working is scheduled for 2021.



"Working with DreamArts and LET has grown my love for the arts event more as I have explored the technical aspects behind productions. I have been introduced to the role of directing, something I had never considered before. Directing was a wonderful new experience that has equipped me with a range of advanced skills. I had so much fun with LET working in a professional environment to produce an outstanding performance that I would never thought of achieving before".

Participant aged 15

"I have achieved to not be shy and now I share my ideas."

Participant aged 9

"I have achieved working in big groups and my teamwork has improved."

Participant aged 11

"At DreamArts the staff are supportive, kind and caring."

Participant aged 8

"Sometimes you can't deal with your own problems so you have to ask for help."

Participant aged 9



EXPAND

Step Up Leadership

DreamArts trained 8 aspiring young creatives to give them the skills and knowledge to become leaders. Sessions included the chance for trainees to explore the impact the arts can have on young lives, how to influence others and different approaches for being someone others listen to, as well as areas such as boundaries and equal opportunities.

100% of young people said they had developed their presentation skills. Three of our older members went on to volunteer and help younger members at Experiment, whilst two young people with caring responsibilities have become youth leaders at Carers Express and for new projects with young refugees.

"This will help me in the future and at this stage in my life as I tend to be a loud mouth among my peers and I never knew how to lead." Participant aged 14

One of our Advanced Leaders from last year, Zhui Ning Chang, wrote and directed a musical which presented as a workshop at The Vaults Festival in February entitled *Asian Pirate Musical*.

"With DreamArts there's been a lot of great mentoring support and the funding has been great especially at the beginning when we didn't know if we'd be able to do the play. It helped build my leadership and also my general communication skills and how to handle a project as big as this".
Zhui Ning Chang, Advanced Leader, 21



City Lions

DreamArts was commissioned to help develop City Lions, Westminster City Council's flagship project to support 13-16 year olds living in the borough's deprived areas to engage with creative opportunities on their doorstep.

DreamArts continues to support delivery of the full City Lions programme and is commissioned to provide strategic support as well as a Creative Curator to lead holiday and school-based projects with young people who may not otherwise know about or engage with the arts. This is particularly important at a time when creativity is increasingly squeezed out of the school curriculum. Activities included workshops at the Saatchi Gallery exploring the birth of youth rave culture, Minecraft workshops at Microsoft, and backstage tours of West End shows.

"There are so many places where you can use your creativity without realising it."

"Westminster is much bigger than I realised and there are so many hidden creative places EVERYWHERE!"

In Summer 2019 DreamArts and City Lions teamed up with British Summertime Hyde Park to deliver a youth takeover, creating opportunities for young people to shadow behind-the-scenes and showcase their achievements on stages and on screens, including Pimlico Academy music ensembles, dancers from Fourth Feathers Youth Club and films screened by Screen Community.

"It was good seeing and understanding how much work goes on backstage to make sure the festival goes well."

DreamArts Stars steal BBC Children in Need Appeal Show!

BBC Children in Need chose 8 members to star in a special film for their appeal show working alongside (and frankly upstaging) star names from the movie *The Personal Life of David Copperfield*, including Armando Iannucci, Darren Boyd and Paul Whitehouse.

It was a huge production, with over 40 production staff. Our members rose to the occasion in every way and impressed everyone on the set with their patience (they were very long days), professionalism and their creativity with members having to learn dialogue on the day.

The BBC content producer visited a number of other funded organisations before deciding to work with DreamArts. What struck her when she visited our sessions was how much the creativity comes directly from young people who are at the heart of the work.



MEMBER CASE STUDY

Journey of a Mermaid Princess

In July 2019 we celebrated the life and legacy of our founder Liz York. Liz touched the lives of thousands of people including Russell Brand who recorded a special tribute, and her inspiration lives on through the achievements of DreamArts members today.

This was demonstrated through the words of Molly who came to the event and shared her DreamArts journey with all the guests.

"Good afternoon.

I have been going to DreamArts for four years and I love it.

In this time I have made new friends and been able to develop my confidence and creativity. I love making things and DreamArts lets me make things and let's me be myself.

When I started DreamArts I was going through a hard time at school and DreamArts helped me by putting my mum in touch with one of their art therapists. I got to talk about my problems and create things with her. It helped me to work through some of my problems.

The shows; When we create our shows we start by thinking up characters and then we develop them more and more. Then we begin to create a story-line and continue on develop that adding in songs and dance routines making it better and better until we have our play.

Sarah-Nell helps us with the singing and music and we get to create our own songs.

Chai helps us with the dance routines and Maeve helps us with the acting and script.

I have been a magic mirror, and old lady named Mrs Coppers who has been trapped in a forest for over a thousand years. I was Mrs Coppers again who was in the land of lost looking for my hairdryer. My favourite role was the last one when I was a mermaid fairy princess who was trying to earn her legs.

In DreamArts I have made new friends, I get to act, sing and dance and put together plays. I love everything about it and if I could change anything about it I wouldn't change a thing 😊 :)"



Molly backstage at The National Theatre



DREAMARTS STAR

Sylvia Darkwa-Ohemeng

Sylvia recalls she wasn't doing anything the summer she decided to get involved with DreamArts. She joined aged 15 to play in the band of Street 2 Stage new musical *Can You Live Without It?* at The Cochrane Theatre and the next year ended up stage managing at a West End theatre, which was "exciting and scary as I'd never run a show in my life."

Sylvia stage managed numerous DreamArts Galas as well as *Carnival* which performed at The Royal Opera House. She studied stage management at Rose Bruford going on to stage manage with the Young Vic, Royal Court, the Tricycle now known as The Kiln, at the National Theatre (including *Nine Nights*) and international tours (*Barbershop Chronicles*).

Sylvia still finds time to meet and inspire today's DreamArts stars, giving technical theatre masterclasses and hosting Q&As with Carers Express. She recently launched Backstage Niche, an exciting initiative and agency aimed at encouraging and promoting people from ethnic minority backgrounds into technical theatre and backstage.

"I started Backstage Niche because the representation of me was absent backstage. I was the only black woman on my technical theatre course and wrote my dissertation on 'Why is there a lack of ethnic minorities working in backstage theatre?'"

At DreamArts we were all young people who lived in London and came from various backgrounds. I only experienced the lack of diversity when I started drama

school and working in the professional theatre workforce.

Anne-Marie Reid at DreamArts was the first black woman I learned stage management from and hired me for various events and festivals. I spoke to her about what I noticed and she said I should do something about it and this is where the seed of Backstage Niche came from.

Not only do we need to reflect our society within theatre, we need to make an active effort to make creative teams inclusive and inspire future generations, just as DreamArts inspired me."

For more information on Backstage Niche visit backstageniche.com.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

It is the opinion of the Board of Trustees that the charity remains financially sound.

Income for the year ending 31 March 2020 totaled £264,675 whilst expenditure was £248,685. This produced a year-end surplus of £15,990, leaving the charity with reserves of £50,573.

Incoming resources rose 13% from last year at £264,675 (2019 = £221,773). Our main source of income this year has been grants applied for by the charity primarily to deliver its core programmes. The level of this funding source has risen to £217,561 (2019 = £171,766). This includes a major new 3-year grant from The John Lyon's Charity of £40k per year towards our core costs. It was also extremely welcome that Westminster City Council reversed its 2017 decision not to fund voluntary sector youth services and, through The Young Westminster Foundation, launched new a grant funding scheme which awarded DreamArts £30,000.

Two years ago our commissioned income fell to £1,571. In 2019-20 commissions rose to £39,037 (2019 = £39,906) which included developing and delivering aspects of City Lions, our Inclusions commission, and support for children and young people with special educational needs.

Our income from donations has made a real difference to our charity and generated £8,577 (2019 = £13,781). This included £1,600 generously raised by friends and family of Liz York at an event to celebrate her life and legacy. We also received a £5,000 donation from William Jackson Food Group, owners of Abel & Cole.

Charitable expenditure was £229,750 (2019 = £203,042). £105,342 was expended on Express, £94,238 on Experiment and £30,170 on Expand. The costs spent on generating funds was £18,135 (2019= £17,217) which includes 25% of our Chief Executive's time. Our governance costs for the year were £800

of living within our means.

Reserves Policy

Reserves at year end stood at £50,573 (2019 = £34,036). We have therefore achieved what trustees consider to be a satisfactory reserves level since the charity has no fixed liabilities beyond its core full-time staff team and is structured to be able to reduce its work if funding is not secured for a particular programme. As the charity grows we would like to achieve reserves levels of £60k.

Supporters in 2019-20

BBC Children in Need
The Mercers' Company
William Shelton Education Trust
Church Street Neighbourhood Keepers Fund
Arts Council England
Awards for All
City of Westminster My Westminster Fund
Young Westminster Foundation
John Lyon's Charity
City of Westminster Charitable Trust
Strand Parishes
Hyde Park Estate Charity
Westminster Foundation
Pimlico Million
St James' Place Foundation
William Jackson Food Group
Harvist Trust Fund
Paddington Central



LOOKING FORWARD

The work of DreamArts has never been more important as the wellbeing needs of young people continue to rise, compounded by the impact of the pandemic. Whilst our plans post-March 2020 have had to adapt, we have the expertise and flexibility to help meet these needs whether working remotely or face-to-face so that young people across Westminster can express themselves on their own terms, explore their challenges and build on their strengths so they can realise their potential.

In Westminster there are 5,000 young people living in poverty in our target wards. In 2018 we set ourselves the target of raising our income from £165k to £300k each year by 2021-22 so we can double our reach. We are on target to achieve this – in 2020 we secured £264,665 and worked with nearly 400 participants, 74% of whom live in our target wards.

To continue it is critical we ‘shout about our success’ and create awareness and understanding of our work in order to:

- **Develop delivery partnerships that are deeper, stronger and longer-term.**
- **Secure commissions that enable us to reach young people most in need and provide us with key resources.**
- **Build a network of support from business and individual Friends to secure, sustain and grow our vision.**

New support from The Media Trust via John Lyons’ Charity has helped us build our communications. This includes the launch of a new DreamArts You Tube Channel and appointing a Content Producer to support members to tell their stories and celebrate their success.

Our reputation for quality and innovation led Westminster City Council to commission us to develop *City Lions*, their flagship programme

to help 13-16 year olds get involved in cultural and creative opportunities in Westminster. DreamArts delivers creative aspects of the 2-year pilot, enabling us to connect with hundreds of young people in schools and youth provisions throughout the borough.

Having been chosen as a core partner by the Early Help Service, we continue working closely to develop services and met with the Director of Children’s Services to explore how the ‘DreamArts Way’ can impact young people most in need.

Key priorities for the coming period are:

- Develop new work with unaccompanied asylum seekers.
- Support children transitioning from primary to secondary school, a challenging time made even tougher by the wellbeing and educational impacts of lockdown.
- Pivot Express Plus to a remote service so that vulnerable children and young people can still access the therapy support they need.

Future Fundraising

Over the past two years DreamArts emerged from incredibly challenging times into a period of sustainability and growth. An increase in our grant income by 39% over the past 3 years demonstrates our belief that Trusts and Foundations recognise the impact we have and want to invest in sustaining and advancing our work.

These challenging times continue. Businesses are unlikely to be in the position they were to offer financial support. However, commissions from City Council and trusts and foundations continue to grow as DreamArts demonstrates the quality and impact of our work in times of crisis.



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DREAMARTS

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dreamarts

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dreamarts (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Kiran D Patel FCA
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28 January 2021



DREAMARTS

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

	2020	2020	2020	2019
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £	Total Funds £
Donations and Legacies	-	8,577	8,577	19,216
Incoming resources from charitable activity	174,967	81,131	256,098	211,672
Total incoming resources	174,967	89,708	264,675	230,888
EXPENDITURE ON				
Raising funds	-	18,135	18,135	17,217
Charitable activities				
Express	74,443	30,899	105,342	98,338
Experiment	73,667	20,571	94,238	94,241
Expand	26,857	3,313	30,170	11,977
Other	-	800	800	-
Total	174,967	73,718	248,685	221,773
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	-	15,990	15,990	9,115
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	-	34,583	34,583	25,468
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	-	50,573	50,573	34,583

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 27 January 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:



A Raniwala - Trustee



DREAMARTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2020

	Notes	2020 Unrestricted fund £	2019 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	36,047	41,476
Cash at bank		<u>51,020</u>	<u>9,277</u>
		87,067	50,573
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(36,494)</u>	<u>(16,170)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>50,573</u>	<u>34,583</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>50,573</u>	<u>34,583</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>50,573</u>	<u>34,583</u>
FUNDS	8		
Unrestricted funds		<u>50,573</u>	<u>34,583</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>50,573</u>	<u>34,583</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 27 January 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:



A Raniwala -Trustee



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2020	2019
	£	£
Support costs	<u>18,135</u>	<u>17,217</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2020 nor for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2020 nor for the year ended 31 March 2019.



DREAMARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

4. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
Full Time	2	2
Part Time	5	4
Freelance Project Staff	12	12
	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	216
Incoming Resources from charitable activity	<u>211,672</u>
Total	230,888
EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	17,217
Charitable activities	
Express	98,338
Experiment	94,241
Expand	11,977
Other	-
Total	<u>221,773</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	9,115
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	<u>25,468</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>34,583</u>

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	35,802	41,231
Other debtors	245	245
	<u>36,047</u>	<u>41,476</u>



DREAMARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	11,164	14,670
Other creditors	<u>25,330</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	<u>36,494</u>	<u>16,170</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	34,583	15,990	50,573
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>34,583</u>	<u>15,990</u>	<u>50,573</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	89,708	(73,718)	15,990
Restricted funds			
General fund	174,967	(174,967)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>264,675</u>	<u>(248,685)</u>	<u>15,990</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/18 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/19 £
Unrestricted Funds			
General fund	25,468	9,115	34,583
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>25,468</u>	<u>9,115</u>	<u>34,583</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	84,122	(75,007)	9,115
Restricted Funds			
General Fund	146,766	(146,766)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>230,888</u>	<u>(221,773)</u>	<u>9,115</u>



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/4/18 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	<u>25,468</u>	<u>25,105</u>	<u>50,573</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>25,468</u>	<u>25,105</u>	<u>50,573</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	173,830	(148,725)	25,105
Restricted Funds			
General fund	<u>321,732</u>	<u>(321,732)</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>495,562</u>	<u>(470,457)</u>	<u>25,105</u>

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2020.



DREAMARTS**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	<u>264,675</u>	<u>230,888</u>
Total incoming resources	264,675	230,888
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	113,828	103,098
Social security	20,171	18,763
Production & Project Costs	<u>57,135</u>	<u>49,857</u>
	191,134	171,718
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	15,499	16,197
Pensions	9,509	9,767
Support Costs	<u>31,743</u>	<u>22,741</u>
	56,750	48,705
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	<u>800</u>	<u>1,350</u>
Total resources expended	248,685	221,773
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>15,990</u>	<u>9,115</u>





DreamArts stars performing alongside Armando Iannucci in a special film made for BBC Children in Need and featuring stars of his movie *The Personal Life of David Copperfield*

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